Society & Social Justice · GS - II

The commercialisation of assisted reproductive technologies can create new forms of exploitation of economically vulnerable women. Examine the ethical, legal and regulatory challenges associated with human oocyte donation in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 12/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Exploitation of economically vulnerable women, informed consent and bodily autonomy, commercialisation of reproductive services, ART Act 2021, donor safety and medical risks, regulatory enforcement, ethical reproductive healthcare.

Model Answer

Introduction

Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) has expanded reproductive choices for individuals and couples facing infertility. However, unregulated practices such as illegal human oocyte harvesting raise serious concerns about women's rights and medical ethics.

Ethical and Social Concerns

Economically vulnerable women may be induced to undergo repeated egg-retrieval procedures through financial incentives or misleading assurances. This raises concerns regarding informed consent, bodily autonomy, coercion and unequal power relations. Oocyte retrieval also involves hormonal stimulation and medical risks, making donor safety essential.

Legal and Regulatory Challenges

The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 provides for registration and regulation of ART clinics and banks, donor safeguards and restrictions on commercial trade in gametes. However, illegal networks can exploit gaps in monitoring, interstate coordination and enforcement. Inadequate awareness and weak grievance mechanisms further increase vulnerability.

Way Forward

Authorities must strengthen inspections, ensure transparent consent procedures, enforce donor-protection standards and prosecute trafficking networks. Independent counselling, accessible grievance redressal and awareness among potential donors are equally important.

Conclusion

India must balance reproductive rights and technological advancement with human dignity, women's autonomy and strict accountability in fertility services.

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